

Good Morning.

My name is James Griffin. I am a retired Captain from the Waterbury Police Department and I currently serve as the Director of Public Safety & Police at Capital Community College located on Main St. in downtown Hartford. I am here to support Manchester Community College and SB1013 which will make MCC a recognized Police Department and give officers the proper tools and necessary legal structure to protect their college. It is my sincere hope that Capital Community College will be added to the bill. There have been several incidents on and near campus which create an indisputable argument to arm the POST certified Police Officers that work here. One incident included a situation in which a student already out on bond for a Felony firearms violation entered the college with another firearm. The student was disarmed after a violent physical struggle just outside a classroom. The recovered firearm had been reported stolen in a burglary in Meriden. Campus Police are state mandated to train with firearms annually but are not allowed to carry them on duty.

This bill has potential to save lives and money for the state. A Professor at Capital Community College sponsored an event that was the subject of threats of physical violence. I was advised Management agrees there is "A need for an armed presence". I was then told over my protests to "Hire a Hartford Police Officer for the event." I and another POST certified campus Police officer watched as the Hartford Police Officer worked the one hour event at a cost of \$600.00 out of my already slim budget. Hartford Police have an 8 hour minimum pay rate.

We have a responsibility to protect our students and to maintain a safe workplace for our employees. There is great liability in having unequal protection and inconsistent policy's between colleges in the same state system. I ask that you pass this important legislation to protect our most valuable resource-our students. There is no other step that can be taken that serves to protect our colleges as much as providing certified, well trained, compassionate Police officers with the proper tools to do their job. Thank You.

Respectfully,
Master Sergeant James Griffin